

Report Date: 06 Jun 2012

**Summary Report for Individual Task
081-833-0256
Test a Stool Sample
Status: Approved**

DISTRIBUTION RESTRICTION: Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited.

DESTRUCTION NOTICE: None

Condition: You have a patient stool sample requiring testing for occult blood. You will need the patients clinical records, bedpan or specimen collection container, test kit, gloves, tongue blade or other wooden applicator, pen, and SF 600 (Medical Record-Chronological Record of Medical Care). You have performed a patient care handwash and you are not in a CBRN environment.

Standard: Test a stool sample in accordance with (IAW) local infection control policy and standard operating procedures (SOP) without causing harm to the patient.

Special Condition: None

Special Standards: None

Special Equipment:

Safety Level: Low

MOPP:

Task Statements

Cue: None

DANGER

None

WARNING

None

CAUTION

None

Remarks: None

Notes: Fecal occult blood tests are valuable for determining the presence of occult blood (hidden GI (gastrointestinal) bleeding) and for distinguishing true melena from melena-like stools. Certain medications, such as iron supplements and bismuth compounds, can darken stools so that they resemble melena. Occult blood tests are particularly important for early detection of colorectal cancer because 80% of patients with this disorder test positive.

Performance Steps

1. Verify patient's identity according to your facility's policy.

- a. Ask patient to state their full name.
- b. Ask patient their date of birth (DOB).

2. Explain the procedure to the patient and check their history for medications that may interfere with the test.

a. If patient is ambulatory and has BRP (bathroom privileges) place a clean specimen collection container in toilet to obtain specimen.

b. Inform patient that specimen collection container is for stool specimen only not urine.

c. If patient is unable to use toilet or bedside commode, offer bedpan in order to obtain stool specimen.

Note: Inform patient to Do Not place toilet tissue in bedpan with specimen and Do Not urinate in bedpan with specimen. Tell patient to notify you when specimen is ready.

3. Put on gloves.

4. Collect stool sample.

Note: Do not collect routine samples during or until 3 days after a female's menstrual period to avoid a false-positive test from contamination of the specimen.

CAUTION

Make sure stool specimens are not contaminated with urine, soap solution, or toilet tissue, and test them as soon as possible after collection.

5. Test stool sample.

Note: Check the expiration date on the Hemoccult slides and developer, and protect the unused slides from heat, moisture, light, and chemicals.

a. Open the flap on the slide package.

(1) Use a wooden applicator to apply a thin smear of the stool specimen on the guaiac-impregnated filter paper exposed in box A.

(2) Apply a second smear from another part of the specimen to the filter paper exposed in box B.

(3) Allow the specimen to dry for 3 to 5 minutes.

b. Open the flap on the reverse side of the slide package.

(1) Place two drops of Hemoccult developing solution on the paper over each smear.

(2) A blue reaction will appear in 30 to 60 seconds if the test is positive.

Note: Ingestion of 2 to 5 ml of blood, such as from bleeding gums or active bleeding from hemorrhoids, may produce a false positive.

6. Record the results and discard the slide package.

7. Remove and discard your gloves and wash your hands.

8. Document findings on an SF 600.

(Asterisks indicates a leader performance step.)

Evaluation Preparation: Setup: For training and evaluation, this test is best verbalized.

Brief Soldier: Tell the Soldier to verbalize the steps to test a stool sample.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES	GO	NO-GO	N/A
1. Verified patient's identity according to your facility's policy.			
2. Explained the procedure to the patient and checked their history of medications that may interfere with the test.			
3. Put on gloves.			
4. Collected stool sample.			
5. Tested the stool sample.			
6. Recorded the results and discarded the slide package.			
7. Removed and discarded gloves and washed hands.			
8. Documented findings on an SF 600.			

Supporting Reference(s):

Step Number	Reference ID	Reference Name	Required	Primary
	ISBN 0-7817-2296-9	Lipincott's Manual of Nursing Practice	No	No
	SF FORM 600	HEALTH RECORD - CHRONOLOGICAL RECORD OF MEDICAL CARE	Yes	No

Environment: Environmental protection is not just the law but the right thing to do. It is a continual process and starts with deliberate planning. Always be alert to ways to protect our environment during training and missions. In doing so, you will contribute to the sustainment of our training resources while protecting people and the environment from harmful effects. Refer to FM 3-34.5 Environmental Considerations and GTA 05-08-002 ENVIRONMENTAL-RELATED RISK ASSESSMENT.

Safety: In a training environment, leaders must perform a risk assessment in accordance with FM 5-19, Composite Risk Management. Leaders will complete a DA Form 7566 COMPOSITE RISK MANAGEMENT WORKSHEET during the planning and completion of each task and sub-task by assessing mission, enemy, terrain and weather, troops and support available-time available and civil considerations, (METT-TC). Note: During MOPP training, leaders must ensure personnel are monitored for potential heat injury. Local policies and procedures must be followed during times of increased heat category in order to avoid heat related injury. Consider the MOPP work/rest cycles and water replacement guidelines IAW FM 3-11.4, NBC Protection, FM 3-11.5, CBRN Decontamination.

Prerequisite Individual Tasks : None

Supporting Individual Tasks : None

Supported Individual Tasks : None

Supported Collective Tasks :

Task Number	Title	Proponent	Status
N/A	N/A	Not Selected	Obsolete